



News From:  
Navy League of the United States  
Santa Barbara Council

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## **Newest US Navy Ship – adopted by Local Navy League Council – to make historic “Commissioning” visit to Ventura/Santa Barbara**

*USS STOCKDALE-related press tours, events and live satellite feeds announced*

**Santa Barbara, CA-** USS STOCKDALE (DDG 106), the Navy’s newest Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer, will be arriving at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme on Tuesday, April 14th at approximately 10:00 a.m. and will be Commissioned during a formal ceremony on April 18 at 11:00 featuring Admiral Keating as the Keynote Speaker and H. Ross Perot as the Honorary Chair for the event. An estimated 100 Vietnam Veterans and former Prisoners of War, and Medal of Honor recipients are attending this historic commissioning and the surrounding events.

Named after the much respected American war hero and former Vice-Presidential candidate, Navy Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale, the fast warship will provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities. As the first destroyer named for the Navy’s highest ranking POW, the ship embodies the spirit and patriotism of Medal of Honor Recipient Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale. The crew of the USS STOCKDALE, and all who support this endeavor, will join together to become a powerful symbol of a strong united America, guided by the ship’s motto, “Return With Honor.”

The Ventura/Santa Barbara visit is fitting for the Commissioning Ceremony as the Santa Barbara Council of the Navy League of the United States was invited to adopt the USS STOCKDALE last October. As the adopting council, the Santa Barbara Navy League’s role is to support the ship’s commissioning ceremony, fund ship “enhancements” so the crew has a touch of home while at sea and provide support to the crew and their families for the life of the ship.

“This visit by one of our Navy’s newest and latest designed ships to the California Coast is not only very exciting, but it also helps serve the need to celebrate and honor the tremendous service to our nation by Admiral James Bond Stockdale, the NAM-POWs, and all of our Vietnam era veterans,” said Karen Crawford, President Navy League of the United States – Santa Barbara Council.

The naval crew of more than 250 men and women will be welcomed to Ventura/Santa Barbara with a series of activities and events. A live television feed of the Commissioning Ceremony will be made available to television stations on April 18 from 11:30-1:00 (Please call Cultural Videos and Sports Communications, the coordinators of the feed, at (805) 962-0605, or bolton626@aol.com.)

**For more ship and commissioning information, go to [www.USSStockdale.org](http://www.USSStockdale.org).**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10:** Press deadline for submitting names of representatives interested in participating in the April 16 ship tour. Please email the press names along with their birthdates, verification of US citizenry, and phone/email information to email Erinn Lynch at [elynych@twhr.net](mailto:elynych@twhr.net).

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14:** Arrival of the USS Stockdale to the Ventura Harbor

**Story/Photo Opportunities:** The Oxnard High School Marching Band will welcome the crew of more than 250 men and women

**Time/Location:** Approximately 10:00am - Naval Base Ventura in Port Hueneme

**Press Note:** A press booth will be set-up for administering credential checks and press badges related to the April 16 ship tour.

**Story/Photo Opportunities:** Approximately 100 sailors will enjoy an evening “On The Town” in Santa Barbara. Sightings are expected on State Street between 5:00-9:00pm

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15:** Uniformed crewmembers of the USS Stockdale will participate in Ventura-area community service

**Story/Photo Opportunities:** USS Stockdale crewmembers will help build a home, as part of Habitat for Humanity, for a Ventura County-based veteran

**Time/Location:** 1pm - 315 Cooper Road in Oxnard.

**Other Press Opportunities:** The Santa Barbara Navy League can provide information for interviews with local men and women currently serving on the USS Stockdale. Please inquire with Erinn Lynch at [elynych@twhr.net](mailto:elynych@twhr.net).

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16: Press Tours aboard the USS Stockdale**

**Time/Location:** 2:00pm - 3:30pm, Naval Base Ventura in Port Hueneme

**INFORMATION COMING FROM THE NAVAL SURFACE FORCES PAO**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17:** Community Activities involving USS Stockdale Crewmembers

**Story/Photo Opportunities:** USS Stockdale crewmembers will suit up in a softball game against the Santa Barbara Fire Department

**Time/Location:** 5:00pm-8:00pm Pershing Park, Santa Barbara

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18: USS Stockdale Commissioning Ceremony and POW Barbeque**

**Time/Location:** 11:00am -12:30pm Port Hueneme and 1:00pm – 3:00pm, Bard Mansion Naval Base Ventura

**Story/Photo Opportunities:** Sybil Stockdale (wife of James Stockdale) has personally selected H. Ross Perot, to serve as the Honorary Chair of the Commissioning. He will be attending the event along with keynote speaker Admiral Keating, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and joined by a group of NAM POWs who will be specially flown out for the occasion. As well an F-18 is scheduled to do a flyover during the commissioning.

**Other Press Opportunities:** A very limited number of interviews may be made available with H. Ross Perot. As well a limited number of interviews will be made available with visiting POWs and local POW Charlie Plumb. Please inquire with Erinn Lynch at [elynch@twhr.net](mailto:elynch@twhr.net).

**INFORMATION COMING FROM THE NAVAL SURFACE FORCES PAO**

**About Admiral James Bond Stockdale**

Vice Admiral Stockdale's heroics in Vietnam as a captured serviceman, led the Communists to cease torture of American prisoners and gradually led to the improved treatment of POW's. Released as a prisoner of war in 1973, Vice Admiral Stockdale continued to service the Nation as a Navy leader and was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1976. Vice Admiral Stockdale is one of the most highly decorated officers in the history of the United States Navy.

**About the Santa Barbara Navy League**

The Santa Barbara Navy League is a civilian non-profit, non-political organization dedicated to: supporting the men, women and families of the sea services; educating our nation and nation's leaders about the needs of our maritime nation; supporting youth service programs; and adopting ships and units to help improve their quality of life and to show our appreciation and respect for the work they do as they wear our nation's cloth. Details of the schedule of events, how to contribute and / or join can be found on the Santa Barbara Navy League's web site at [www.SBNL.org](http://www.SBNL.org).

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